Note: The Education Report can be viewed online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/report/

Issue No. 47

**In The News**

Secondary Student Satisfaction Continues to Improve

Port Alberni Strongstart Centre Open for Preschoolers

Province to Match Funding for Raise-a-Reader Campaign

Games Reward Green Ideas

School District 48 Renamed to Better Reflect Region

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**Links**

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
- Healthy Schools
- ReadNow BC
- School District Visits

## Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Education plays an active role in helping government reach its goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management. In my visits to school districts, I've seen how schools are doing their part to help protect the environment and how our students are leading the way to a greener future.

On September 23, Science World and the ministry launched the Green Games. Our government has provided almost $160,000 in funding for these games, which will help schools around the province further model the best environmental practices and encourage our students to learn more about environmental responsibility.

The very next day, Premier Campbell announced the Climate Action Revenue Incentive which will help offset the cost to municipalities, districts and boards of education as they work towards being carbon neutral. Municipalities have been asked to make a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2012. The ministry and the Climate Action Secretariat will be working with boards to develop a similar process for boards of education.

In addition to these initiatives, we have created a number of LiveSmart BC projects to help educate students, parents and teachers in the many ways they can make our schools and communities greener. We are distributing Eco Kits to our classrooms and are in the process of developing a new green curriculum. New diesel-electric buses are helping us reduce emissions, and we're testing the performance of hybrid school buses. New and replacement schools are being designed to meet LEED Gold standards which will make our schools more efficient, comfortable and eco-friendly.

The protection of British Columbia's environment is critical to our quality of life, to address the global challenge of climate change, and to preserving our province's renowned natural beauty.

## Raise-a-Reader

Minister Shirley Bond donated books to the Penticton Raise-a-Reader campaign Sept. 24 at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention. UBCM delegates generously contributed a number of books to support the campaign. The Province also announced that for the fifth consecutive year it would match funds raised by the Canwest Raise-a-Reader campaign.

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**HOT TOPIC**

This week, results from the eighth annual school satisfaction survey were released. The survey results highlighted a number of positive trends. Parents are showing increased confidence in their children's safety at school, students are reporting that they are learning about how to stay healthy, secondary students and their parents report improvement within all surveyed areas of learning, and secondary students are showing increased confidence in how school prepares them for post-secondary employment and for post-secondary education.

This survey is extremely valuable because it lets us know the views of those directly involved in the education system. Not only does this survey offer a way to measure student and staff satisfaction in the areas of student achievement, human and social development and safety, but it is also another way parents can have their say in the education of their children.

Unfortunately, parent participation with this survey has declined significantly over the past several years. Only 31 per cent of elementary school parents and seven per cent of secondary school parents responded in 2007/2008. I want to discuss this with the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils to see how we can increase parent participation and maximize the benefit of this survey. The views students, teachers and parents express through the satisfaction survey provide school-specific information so that we can work to develop strategies to improve learning opportunities for our students. I would like to encourage parents and caregivers to take a more active role by participating in this valuable process.

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**Reading Corner**

While playing hide-and-seek in a country home, four siblings stumble on a wardrobe containing a secret passage that leads them to the enchanted land of Narnia. There, the children meet talking woodland animals and mythical creatures in a country that has been plunged into eternal winter by a witch's curse. With the help of Aslan the Lion, the children take part in an epic battle to defeat the witch and bring back springtime.

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